

Three Stories of Success

1 UK - YEP! Action Sustained

SWEA secured funding to continue 'YEP!' for a further year (beyond this contract) in one school as part of a project implemented by national government, Department for Education, 'Towards Zero Carbon Schools'. This seeks to establish eighteen exemplar practices of reducing secondary school emissions. Our proposal, in joint submission with Gloucestershire County Council focused on a school with a 'YEP!' team in place so that students could be involved in the refurbishment of their school. It was also thought that the presence of a strong educational programme, already established would add value to the bid that seeks to identify the impacts of different sustainability measures. The success of this venture has secured in excess of £700 000 for capital works in the school that will realise some of the 'YEP!' students more costly recommendations and will also provide funding to keep 'YEP!' active up to March 2011.

Additionally, the 'YEP!' project's success in Gloucestershire has encouraged our county council to now fund its delivery in a phased roll out to all of their secondary schools. Twenty one schools are enrolled so far with another 8 planned to star in September. Future development hopes to see the realisation of wider delivery outside our county and a primary programme for feeder schools to the secondary schools involved with 'YEP!'.

2 Greece/ Sweden/Bulgaria – YEP! Students Instigate Renewable Installations

After receiving the general training about Energy, Energy Saving and Alternative Renewable Energy Sources, students learned what an Energy Audit is and how it was conducted. This was a new concept and a whole new dimension in their "usual" energy and environmental education. They were now able to measure their schools' actual energy consumption and more importantly to see the "measurable" results of some simple energy saving measures. Furthermore, the possibility to use this "new knowledge" in a workplace made them feel important as contributors to an integrated action towards energy efficiency.

In some cases the results of their schools Energy Audit and their realistic proposals created an excellent framework for the Schools' headmasters to formulate an official request to the responsible authority for energy saving measures and installation of new energy technologies (e.g. one school is already trying to find the co-financing procedure for installing a PV system).

Great work has been done in disseminating the students' new knowledge to other students and the public. One school organised an energy day event with the participation of Authorities, students and teachers from other schools and their families, where their actions as "Energy Responsible Citizens" have been presented in detail.

In Sweden the 'YEP!' project activities directly influenced the decision making for the refurbishment of Araby School. The SEMT suggested a PV system and this was supported by the owners of the school building who were also represented on the Local Steering Group for the action. The refurbished building will now include a 39kW PV array.

During the educational program in Bulgaria all students from the SEMTs came to EAP's premises for active learning activities. All the students received more concrete knowledge of energy management in SMEs and RES applications. Technical experts from EAP guided the students in doing a full audit of

their schools and producing a report that covered fuel consumption for heating and alternative modern systems. The audit was followed up by action planning that used the findings to prepare recommendations for lowering the energy consumption in the schools.

The students from the Professional High School of Electronics (PHSE) have included a recommendation for fuel switch in their report. The report was presented to the head teacher who was more than impressed from the potential savings shown; inspired by the findings the school's leadership decided to make the first steps in transforming an ordinary school into a best practice example. An ESCO mechanism for fuel switch - from coal to biomass - was adopted in PHSE. EAP actively participated in the process of choosing the company and consulted the school. The PHSE will start the new school year using biomass as a result of the YEP! project.

3 UK and IT (Livorno) – YEP! Students Impact local Businesses

The students of schools in Livorno Province led energy awareness campaigns. 'YEP!' students from Cattaneo School in Cecina (who had roles of computer managers and marketing managers in the School Energy Management Team), worked with their teacher, to prepare some table cloths with questionnaires on Energy Efficiency printed upon them. They also achieved sponsorship to pay for the printing of the cloths. Students distributed these table cloths in some of the local restaurants and pizzerias in Cecina, a very nice tourist sea resort. In this way restaurant owners, staff and guests are invited to consider their energy use which may lead to bigger impacts for energy saving.

The students of Farmor's School in Fairford, Gloucestershire so impressed the CEO of the hotel they carried out their work placement that he is now piloting an energy management post on his staff with a view to putting similar practice into his chain of 4 hotels. Students identified nearly £100 000 of potential savings in lighting through their observations!